

Rev. 10/99
44-A

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL
Post TANF Benefits

Page 1

FS Cross
Reference

TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE (TCC)

GENERAL RULE: Transitional child care is available to recipients who received TANF or PaS in 1 of the 3 months immediately preceding the month of ineligibility. Increased hours of work or increased earnings must have caused or contributed to the closure, (See **EXCEPTION TO GENERAL RULE**), and the family's gross income must be equal to or less than 85% of the state's median income for their family size. (Appendix, page 6).

NOTE: When an earnings increase or increased hours of work occurs in conjunction with another change which causes ineligibility, there is TCC.

EXAMPLE: When an individual who has been incapacitated works more than 20 hours per week, they are no longer considered disabled. The combination of increased hours of work and loss or deprivation make the family eligible for TCC.

NOTE: Families who become ineligible because of increased assessed income of the excluded step-parent are not eligible for Transitional Child Care.

NOTE: When a child's parent is sanctioned from the assistance grant, the child remains eligible for TCC because it is their need that TCC meets.

EXCEPTION TO GENERAL RULE: Transitional Child Care services are also available to families in which one or both adults are working; and, although they remain financially eligible for TANF or PaS benefits, request that their benefits be terminated.

Rev. 10/99
44-A

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL

Post TANF Benefits

Page 1a

Transitional Child Care is available to TANF or PaS households with TANF or PaS children under age 13. If the child is age 13 or over, they must be physically or mentally incapable of caring for themselves or be subject to court supervision with an official determination for the necessity of child care.

NOTE: The physical or mental incapacity must be determined by a physician or licensed psychologist.

NOTE: Children receiving SSI or IV-E Foster Care may also be eligible for transitional child care.

Rev. 11/97

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL
Post TANF Benefit

Page 2

FS Cross
Reference

TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE (cont.)

NOTE: When a deprived child enters the household during the transitional period and meets all the requirements, the child will be eligible for TCC.

Transitional Child Care is not available if the care is provided by parents, step-parents, guardians or members of the assistance unit.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Eligibility for Transitional Child Care and the calculation of the first month's payment shall be determined by staff of the Bureau of Family Independence upon oral or written request if it is done before there has been a break in assistance of 1 month.

The family's subsequent eligibility and payments will be determined by the Resource Development Center (RCD) or Voucher Management Agency (VMA) that serves the county in which the family lives (see Appendix, page 4a.). BFI staff will initiate the transfer of TCC assistance to the appropriate RDC or VMA when the initial payment is authorized. The family and the RDC or VMA will receive written notification of the circumstances.

Written applications may be filed in any month during the 12 month period immediately following TANF closure.

NOTE: There is no retroactive benefit.

When there has been a break in assistance of 1 month, the family will contact the RDC or VMA that serves the county in which the family lives for TCC assistance.

The first month of TCC is the first month of ineligibility in which no work related child care benefits are received. This includes the child care disregard used in the calculation of the TANF grant and child care benefits received under ASPIRE-TANF.

Rev. 03/02

#58-A

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL

Post TANF Benefit

Page 2a

FS Cross
Reference

TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE (cont.)

Fee Requirement:

The filing unit is responsible for paying a fee of 2% to 10% of gross income, based on the family's gross income compared to the State's median income level as indicated in the fees Assessment Chart (Appendix, page 7) for each child receiving child care.

NOTE: The total amount of assessed fees to a family will not exceed 10% of the family's gross income for all of their children.

TCC checks:

Monthly transitional child care checks are calculated prospectively for 1 month and are equal to the recipient's anticipated monthly cost of care, minus the fee, up to a cap. The cap is the 75th percentile rate charged in the county where the child care is provided.

NOTE: For purposes of the chart, infants = birth through 12 months, toddlers = 13 months through 36 months, pre-school = 37 months through 59 months or older if not in kindergarten, and school age = 5 yrs. or kindergarten to 13 yrs.

EXCEPTION: Apply the higher pre-kindergarten caps to 5 year olds who are NOT in school.

In the calculation of the child care payment, figures will be rounded down to the nearest whole dollar. TCC payments issued by the Bureau of Family Independence will be sent to the eligible family. TCC payments issued by the RDC or VMA will be sent to the child care provider.

NOTE: TCC benefits not used to pay the child care provider will be considered an overpayment.

Termination:

Child care payments will remain constant until the first review is completed unless:

1. employment ceases;
2. a child reaches the age of 13;
3. a child leaves the home;
4. child care payments are not made by the recipient;

5. the family fails to cooperate in establishing paternity or enforcing child support.

Rev. 10/00
51-A

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL
Post TANF Benefits

Page 3

FS Cross
Reference

TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE (cont.)

Reporting requirements and redeterminations for on-going eligibility and benefit calculations will be determined by the RDC or VMA, in accordance with rules and regulations of the Bureau of Child and Family Services.

When the payment is made directly to the family, the family is entirely responsible for payment to the child care provider.

If the employed household member loses a job with good cause as defined in the ASPIRE-TANF plan and finds another prior to the TANF grant being re-opened, the family remains eligible for TCC.

Provider Check:

Provider checks must be made prior to authorizing a child care payment. Child care providers who are paid with state or federal funds must pass background checks.

Rev. 8/99
#42-A

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL
Post TANF and PaS Benefits

Page 4

FS Cross
Reference

TRANSITIONAL MEDICAID:

GENERAL RULE: Depending on the reason for closing, the assistance unit may be eligible for extended Medicaid coverage. Eligibility for Medicaid is determined separately.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL
Post TANF and PaS BenefitsFS Cross
Reference

TRANSITIONAL TRANSPORTATION

GENERAL RULE: Transitional transportation is available for a period of three months to those members of the household who have obtained employment while a participant, and who have become ineligible for TANF or PaS solely as a result of:

1. an increase in earned income or hours of work;
2. for TANF/UP only, an increase in the number of hours worked by the PWE to more than 130 hours per month; or
3. for TANF/IC only, an increase in the number of hours worked by the individual who had been determined incapacitated to more than 20 hours per week.

NOTE: These provisions do not apply when families become ineligible because of the increased assessment of the excluded stepparent.

NOTE: These provisions do not apply when families with earnings voluntarily withdraw from the program.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Eligibility for Transitional Transportation is determined upon oral or written request prior to TANF or PaS closure. Additionally, individuals will be notified at the time of TANF or PaS closure of the possibility of the one-time transportation reimbursement and of the necessity to contact their worker within 30 days of the notice, if interested.

Good cause for failure to request this one-time transportation reimbursement timely may be one of the following reasons:

- a. Mail delay;

Rev. 09/01

#54-A

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL
Post TANF and PaS Benefits

Page 6

FS Cross
Reference

TRANSITIONAL TRANSPORTATION (cont.)

- b. Reported change of address too late in the preceding month for data processing changes for mailing;
- c. The 30 day period falls on a weekend or a holiday. In this instance the due date becomes the next working day;
- d. Planned absences previously reported;
- e. Circumstances beyond the control of the responsible relative.

The first month of ineligibility is the month following the last month in which the family received a TANF or PaS payment. The TANF or PaS family will be eligible for a one-time payment to cover employment related travel expenses for the three month period directly following closure of the TANF or PaS benefit.

PAYMENT: Payment is made in the third month at the rates listed below.

Full reimbursement at 24 cents per mile up to \$10 per day will be provided to families where gross earnings of the TANF or PaS household are equal to or less than 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Whatever the mode of transportation, an allowance will be paid as long as a transportation expense is incurred. The allowance will be equal to the rate per mile times the number of miles traveled up to the daily cap.

NOTE: Payment is for the most direct route to and from the place of employment.

Mileage will include trips to a child care provider and to the home of car pool passengers.

Rev. 8/99

#42-A

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MAINE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MANUAL
Post TANF and PaS Benefits

Page 7

FS Cross
Reference

TRANSITIONAL TRANSPORTATION (cont.)

Fifty percent reimbursement at 12 cents per mile up to \$5 per day will be provided to families where gross earnings of the TANF or PaS household are 126 through 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The allowance will be equal to 12 cents per mile times the number of miles traveled up to the daily cap.

Twenty-five percent reimbursement at 6 cents per mile up to \$1 per day will be provided to families where gross earnings of the TANF or PaS household are equal to or exceed 186 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). [See FPL Chart in the Appendix]